

June 13, 2013

Mayor G. David Gillock  
City of North Ridgeville  
7307 Avon Belden Road  
North Ridgeville, OH 44039

Dear Mayor Gillock:

Alley Cat Allies is outraged and saddened to hear the news report about a North Ridgeville Humane Officer shooting five kittens, an act which appears to be a clear act of cruelty in violation of state law. Alley Cat Allies is the only national advocacy organization dedicated to the protection and humane treatment of cats. We have promoted the neutering, return and humane treatment of feral cats since our founding in 1990, and we regularly advise local governments, state policymakers, individuals, and nonprofit groups on humane approaches to cats.

The actions of this officer are unacceptable and deeply troubling. These brutal killings were not “euthanasia” nor did it resolve a public safety issue. Officers should be educating residents about how to treat animals humanely and coexist peacefully, not shooting kittens in front of children.

Your Humane Officers clearly need more training. We urge you to issue an immediate order ending all “euthanasia” of cats by Humane Officers in North Ridgeville.

The North Ridgeville website states that Humane Officers are responsible for the enforcing the state laws governing domestic animals. In this instance, it is the Humane Officer who violated the law. The Ohio animal cruelty statute states that “No person shall knowingly torture, torment, needlessly mutilate or maim, cruelly beat, poison, needlessly kill, or commit an act of cruelty against a companion animal.” Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 959.131. The definition of “companion animal” explicitly includes “any dog or cat regardless of where it is kept,” and the shooting of five kittens was clearly a “needless killing.”

Alley Cat Allies would like the opportunity to train your Humane Officers about the state cruelty law and how to humanely handle feral cats. Please let us know how we may move forward on this offer.

Sincerely,



President